

ABSTRACT

In a gateway apparatus for conducting connection between different types of communication networks, that are a line-switched network and a packet-switched network, there are provided a method and an apparatus in which sound breaks otherwise caused by delay or loss of speech encoded data is eliminated and deterioration of the speech quality is minimized to assure short delay in speech communication. A speech data processing circuit 550 of the gateway apparatus compares the number of speech encoded data actually acquired with an expected value, that is, the number of speech encoded data, which is the number of the encoded data expected to be output every unit period from a multiplexed data demultiplexing circuit 200. If the number of speech encoded data actually acquired is less than the expected value, the speech data processing circuit generates speech encoded data for a destination terminal of transmission to execute error concealment processing. The speech data processing circuit packetizes the so generated speech encoded data, along with the speech encoded data, to send the so packetized data from a transmission circuit 801 to the packet-switched network. If the speech data has failed to be acquired from a receiving circuit of the packet-switched network, at a preset period, a signal to the effect that packet data has failed to be acquired is

generated and selection is made as to whether encoded data should be generated or encoded data should be discarded. The resulting data is sent from a data multiplexing circuit 900 and a line-switched network terminating circuit 100 to the
30 line-switched network.